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Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00759 161514Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 /015 W
----------007889 161518Z /14
O R 160906Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC 1809

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USIAC

USIA FOR IAA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: N/A
SUBJ: SPORTS ADVISOR MAL WHITFIELD

1. HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY PERMANENT SECRETARY GOBE MATENGE ASKED TO SEE AMBASSADOR AND ME YESTERDAY AT PRESIDENT KHAMA'S SUGGESTION TO SEEK URGENT ASSISTANCE IN ORGANIZING NATION'S GROWING BUT THUS FAR UNORGANIZED SPORTS PROGRAM.

2. SPECIFICALLY, HE ASKED AMBASSADOR'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING SERVICE OF EXPERIENCED "SPORTS ADMINISTRATOR" FOR ABOUT ONE YEAR AS SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL.

3. PERMSEC EMPHASIZED PRESIDENT KHAMA'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS PROGRAM AND IN SPORTS ADMINISTRATOR POSITION, NOTING PRESIDENT IS AVID SPORTS FAN.

4. HE STATED A SOUTH AFRICAN ORGANIZATION RECENTLY CONDUCTED AN UNOFFICIAL SURVEY OF SPORTS SITUATION IN BOTSWANA, AND FORMALLY OFFERED TO PROVIDE SERVICES OF A SPORTS ADMINISTRATOR. OFFER WAS REJECTED BY PRESIDENT WHO DIRECTED MATENGE
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TO SEEK ASSISTANCE FIRST FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THEN FROM OTHER "FRIENDS" IF THE USG WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE THE ADMINISTRATOR.

5. SOME SPORTS, SUCH AS TENNIS AND FOOTBALL (SOCCER), ARE DEVELOPING RAPIDLY IN SOME URBAN CENTERS WHILE THEIR DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS LAGS FAR BEHIND. OTHER SPORTS, SUCH AS

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TRACK,
BASKETBALL AND BASEBALL, COULD BE DEVELOPED, BUT LACK COACHES
AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.

6. LESISLATION HAS BEEN PASSED PROVIDING POLICY GUIDELINES
AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE NATIONAL SPORT COUNCIL'S DIVISION
OF RESOURCES AMONG VARIOUS SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS. MATENGE PROMISED
TO GIVE THE PERSON CHOSEN HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT IN WHAT HE
KNEW WAS CHALLENGING POSITION.

7. IN REPLY, AMBASSADOR PROMISED TO ADVISE THE GOB WITHIN
ONE MONTH AS TO WHETHER WE CAN PROVIDE A CANDIDATE FOR THE
POSITION. AS INITIAL STEP, HE SAID WE COULD REQUEST USIA
SPORTS ADVISOR MAL WHITFIELD BE GIVEN ONE OR TWO WEEK TDY
ASSIGNMENT TO BOTSWANA TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND TO POSSIBLY
RECOMMEND SOMEONE WHO COULD HANDLE THE JOB OF SPORTS ADMINIS-
TRATOR.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) AGENCY REQUESTED TO REPEAT THIS
MESSAGE TO WHITFIELD AND (B) ADVISE POST ASAP IF WHITFIELD
CAN BE GIVEN A TDY ASSIGNMENT HERE. IF SO, (C) WHEN HE COULD
ARRIVE, AND (D) IF NOT, WHAT OTHER ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE
MADE FOR A SURVEY BY A QUALIFIED, EXPERIENCED U.S. SPORTS
EDUCATOR/ADMINISTRATOR/TRAINER.

9. POST CONSIDERS THIS A TOP PRIORITY.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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SAS ID: 3313226
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TAGS: OEXC, (WHITFIELD, MAL)
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